Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

Silverleaf nightshade
Solanum elaeagnifolium

Other common names: white horsenettle
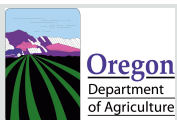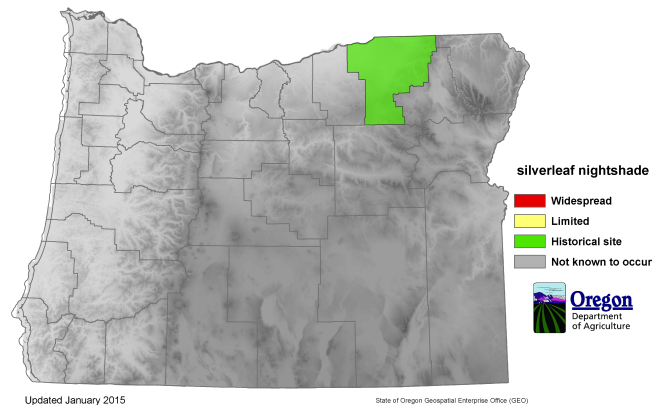
USDA symbol: SOEL
ODA rating: A

Introduction: Native to southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Silverleaf nightshade is a weed that can be found in its native range and in other semi-arid regions of the world. Twenty-one states have declared it a noxious weed.

Distribution in Oregon: Found and eradicated in Umatilla County in the 1940s. There is the only known site to occur in Oregon.

Description: Silverleaf nightshade is a perennial that flowers from midsummer to frost. Flowers are violet to light blue, up to an inch wide, fused petals with yellow centers. It grows from 1 to 3 feet tall. Leaves are narrow and, along with the stems, covered with dense, hairs that give foliage a gray or silvery appearance. Creeping stems produce young shoots that are a dusky, silver-gray and resembles seedlings but do not have cotyledons. Fruits are yellow or dull orange berries, which may eventually turn blackish. It reproduces by seeds, creeping roots, and root fragments. Dense stands reportedly produced 100 million seeds per acre per year. Wind, water, birds, vehicles, machinery, agricultural products, and gracing animals can carry seeds. Silverleaf nightshade became established along railroad tracks in California after it was swept from railway cars. Since established silverleaf nightshade is so difficult to control, early detection and prevention is the key.

silverleaf nightshade

- 🟥 Widespread
- 🟨 Limited
- 🟩 Historical site
- ⬜ Not known to occur

Oregon Department of Agriculture

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State of Oregon Geospatial Enterprise Office (GEO)

Impacts: This plant is found in rangeland, pastures, waste areas and cropland in the western U.S. The berries and foliage of this plant are poisonous to livestock. Glycoalkaloids in silverleaf nightshade can poison cattle and sheep. The leaves and fruit are toxic at all stages of maturity; the highest concentration is in the ripe fruits.

Biological controls: Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. If this weed is found in the state it will be managed for eradication or containment.